AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the indicated paragraphs of the substitute specification in accordance with the amendments indicated below.

Page 6, insert at the end of the brief description of the drawings section the following:

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the multiwell plate without a support frame attached.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a support frame having an array of holes for accepting the multi-well plate of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is perspective view of the support frame of Fig. 4.

Page 11, amend the first full paragraph as follows:

Referring to Figs. 3-5, another ~~Another~~ aspect of the invention concerns [[the]] a support frame 3' for a multiwell plate 1 ~~of the multiwell plates~~. As the plates 1 can be formed of very thin films (depending on the draw ratio of the well; supra) the flexibility of, for example, standard-format plates, i.e. 96-well PCR (8,5

x 12,5 cm) plates, is such that handling is not easily possible anymore. Therefore, depending on the geometry of the plate 1, a supporting frame might be needed, for example for industry standard formats, i.e. 96-, 192-, 384-well PCR plates. This frame can support, for example in case of small plates, the edges of the plate as shown in the form of a support frame 3 in Figs. 1a and 1b, or individual wells of the plate, or groups of wells. For handling with robots, for example, the frame 3' of Figs. 3-5 can be injection molded in the form of the standard skirted microplates containing [[the]] an array of holes 15 in [[the]] a top surface of the frame 3' matching the array of wells of the ultrathin multiwell plate 1. The plate 1 can be attached to the frame 3' by, for example, heat bonding. However, [[for]] small format plates including [[the]] a frame can be formed as a single piece by using specially designed moulds.